

**CLAIMS**

I claim:

1. A method of controlling traffic in the elevator system, comprising the steps of:  
assigning a plurality of elevator cars to respective sectors;  
5 determining a handling capacity of the elevator system; and  
selectively overriding the sector assignment of at least one of the cars  
responsive to a destination indication from at least one passenger when the  
determined handling capacity is within a selected range.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, including initially assigning a car to the one passenger  
based upon the sector to which the destination indication belongs and then reassigning  
the passenger to a different car that has a departure time that is earlier than the  
initially assigned car.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, including reassigning the passenger to the different car  
if the handling capacity is within the selected range.
4. The method of claim 2, including reassigning the passenger to the different car  
if the destination indication is within a sector to which the different car is assigned.
- 20 5. The method of claim 2, including repeatedly reassigning the passenger to a  
different car that has an earlier departure time than a currently assigned car.
6. The method of claim 1, including determining a value of the handling capacity  
25 and comparing the determined value to a selected threshold.
7. The method of claim 6, including using a randomly generated number from  
within a selected range as the threshold.
- 30 8. The method of claim 1, including overriding the sector assignment when the  
handling capacity is below a selected threshold.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the selected threshold corresponds to a heavy traffic volume and the capacity is near a maximum capacity.

10. An elevator system, comprising:  
a plurality of elevator cars; and  
a controller that determines a handling capacity of the elevator system,  
5 determines a destination of at least one passenger and selectively overrides the sector  
assignment of at least one of the cars responsive to the determined destination when  
the determined handling capacity is within a selected range.
11. The system of claim 10, wherein the controller determines departure times of  
10 each of the cars from a base floor, the controller initially assigns a car to the one  
passenger based upon the sector to which the destination indication belongs and  
wherein the controller reassigns the passenger to a different car that has a departure  
time that is earlier than the initially assigned car.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the controller reassigns the passenger to the  
15 different car if the handling capacity is within the selected range.
13. The system of claim 11, wherein the controller reassigns the passenger to the  
different car if the destination indication is within a sector to which the different car is  
20 assigned.
14. The system of claim 11, wherein the controller repeatedly reassigns the  
passenger to a different car that has an earlier departure time than a currently assigned  
25 car.
15. The system of claim 10, wherein the controller determines a value of the  
handling capacity and compares the determined value to a selected threshold.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein the controller uses a randomly generated  
30 number from within a selected range as the threshold.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein the controller overrides the sector assignment when the handling capacity is below a selected threshold.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the selected threshold corresponds to a heavy  
5 traffic volume and the capacity is near a maximum capacity.

19. The system of claim 10, including a primary destination entry location outside of the elevator cars that is useable by a passenger to provide a destination indication and wherein the controller prioritizes the travel of the passenger based upon whether  
10 the passenger entered the destination indication at the primary entry location.

20. The system of claim 10, including a display that provides passengers with an indication of the car to which they are assigned.

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